

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 HEW-08 EB-11

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, SOCI

SUBJ: 28TH GA THIRD COMMITTEE--FIRST ITEM, DECADE FOR
ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

REF: USUN 3564

1. SUMMARY. ON OCT 9 THIRD COMITE CONCLUDED CONSIDERATION OF FIRST AGENDA ITEM, DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND VOTED LONG SERIES OF AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT PROGRAM FOR THE DECADE ON FOUR OF WHICH US VOTED AGAINST. COMITE THEN PASSED DRAFT RES WITHOUT OBJECTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY PLENARY WHICH, IF ADOPTED, WILL PUT DRAFT PROGRAM FOR DECADE INTO EFFECT. RES ASSIGNS PREPARATORY AND COORDINATING FUNCTION TO EOCOSC. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER ALMOST TWO WEEKS OF SPEECHES ON THE FIRST AGENDA ITEM OF THIRD COMITE (AGENDA ITEM 53(A)), DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION), A FLURRY OF AMENDMENTS WAS TABLED ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, OCT 4-5, MANY OF THEM AFTER FRIDAY 10 AM DEADLINE IMPOSED BY COMITE CHAIRMAN YAHYA MAHMASSANI. OTHERS WERE RECEIVED AT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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BEGINNING OF MONDAY'S SESSION. NONETHELESS, CHAIRMAN DETERMINED TO PUSH DRAFT PROGRAM (A/C.3/9094/ANNEX I) TO VOTE WHICH HE DID IN LONG AFTERNOON SESSION TUESDAY, OCT 9. MOST AMENDMENTS NON-CONTROVERSIAL AND SUBMITTED FOR PURPOSES

OF CLARIFYING TEXT AND GRATIFYING PREDELICIONS OF INDIVIDUAL DELS. HOWEVER, CERTAIN AMENDMENTS, ESPECIALLY SOVIET AND SYRIAN, IMPLIED OR STATED OBJECTIONABLE POLICIES AND WERE UNACCEPTABLE, AS FOLLOWS:

A. PARA 5, USSR AMENDMENT (L.2003)--USSR PROPOSED REPLACING ORIGINAL PARA 5 WITH WORDS: "THE UNITED NATIONS IS CONVINCED MORE THAN EVER OF THE NEED FOR CONSTANT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE RACISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION." THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN ACCEPTABLE HAD IT NOT DELIBERATELY OMITTED THE ORIGINAL CONCLUDING PHRASE "AND TO PROMOTE HARMONIOUS RELATIONS BETWEEN RACES." SOVIETS REBUFFED REQUEST THAT THEY REINTRODUCE THIS PHRASE AT END OF SOVIET DRAFT (L.2004). SOVIET AMENDMENT CARRIED 76-7(US)-16.

B. PARA 12(A), USSR AMENDMENT (L.2003/CORR.1)--TO ADD FOLLOWING: "ASSISTANCE ON A BILATERL BASIS TO PEOPLE WHICH ARE VICTIMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION." BEHIND-SCENES EFFORT BY UK AND OTHERS TO PERSUADE SOVIETS TO INSERT "HUMANITARIAN" BEFORE "ASSISTANCE" FAILED, REVEALING, AS NOTED BY BRAZIL IN FLOOR DEBATE, THAT THIS COULD BE INTERPRETED AS AUTHORIZING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. US OPPOSED AMENDMENT ON CONSIDERATIONS OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF OTHER NATIONS. AMENDMENT CARRIED 71-2(US)-20.

C. NEW SUB PARA (E) OF PARA 13 (L.1999)--ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY IRAQ AND SYRIA WITH NUMEROUS COSPONSORS INSERTS FOLLOWING: "STATES SHOULD ADOPT MEASURES TO PREVENT THE ACTIVITIES OF PERSONS AND GROUPS WHICH INCITE SECTARIAN AND RACIAL PASSIONS THAT WOULD PROVOKE PEOPLE TO LEAVE THEIR LAND AND SETTLE IN LANDS BELONGING TO OTHERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICIES DESIGNED TO CONSOLIDATE SETTLER-COLONIALISM OR TO SETTLE THEM IN RESERVATIONS THUS COMPELLING THEM TO LIVE IN MISERABLE CONDITIONS." US OPPOSED ON GROUNDS THAT IMPLICATIONS OF AMENDMENT WERE TOO BROAD AND THAT MEASURES TO PREVENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCITEMENT WOULD CONFLICT WITH CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH. 73-3(US)-17.

D. ADDITIONAL NEW SUB PARA, TO FOLLOW NEW SUB-PARA (E), USSR AMENDMENT (L.2003/CORR.1)--TO ADD: "IT IS ESSENTIAL TO CONSIDER WAYS AND MEANS OF ENSURING THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ISOLATION OF RACIST REGIMES." UN OPPOSED ON GROUNDS THAT "UN SHOULD BE UNIVERSAL AND OPEN FORUM AND THAT IT IS BETTER THAT RACIST REGIMES PARTICIPATE SO THEIR MISGUIDED POLICIES CAN BE EXPOSED IN CRUCIBLE OF WORLD OPINION." AMENDMENT CARRIED 67-6-16.

3. COMMENT: US WAS USUALLY JOINED BY SOME WEOS IN VOTING, BUT MOST DELS WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT ALL AMENDMENTS WITHOUT GREAT REFLECTION. NOTABLE IN THIS RESPECT WAS INABILITY OF UK TO HAVE PHRASE "AND THE PROMOTION OF HARMONIOUS RELATIONS BETWEEN RACES" INCLUDED IN PARA 13(A) (34(US)-44-14). MOST WEO DELS AND SOME NON-ALIGNED WERE OBVIOUSLY DISMAYED BY COMITE'S REJECTION OF IDEA THAT UN SHOULD NOT ONLY ELIMINATE RACISM BUT ALSO PROMOTE RACIAL HARMONY. THEIR REACTION AT LEAST PROMPTED SOME OF DELS THAT REJECTED CONCEPT OF RACIAL HARMONY (NOTABLY ALGERIA) TO LAME EXPLANATIONS OF THEIR POSITIONS. US VOTED FOR GREAT MAJORITY OF AMENDMENTS AND SKILLFUL EXPLANATION OF US NEGATIVE VOTES BY MARGARET YOUNG (POUCHED HEWITT IO/UNP) WAS WELL ACCEPTED.

4. DRAFT RES ON DECADE FOR SUBMISSION TO GA WAS ADOPTED WITHOUT OBJECTION. MOST IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE PROVISION OF THIS RES WAS REQUEST THAT "ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ASSUME, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING THE PROGRAMME AND EVALUATING ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN UNDER THE DECADE AS PROVIDED IN THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DECADE;". US USED INFLUENCE TO OBTAIN THIS PROVISION IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS.

5. COMMENT: USUN BELIEVES THAT WHILE SEVERAL OBJECTIONABLE PARAS ADDED TO DRAFT PROGRAM. ELIMINATION OF IDEA OF CREATING SPECIAL COMITE AND TRANSFER OF COORDINATING ROLE TO ECOSOC AMOUNTS TO SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT WILL LESSEN FINANCIAL COST OF DECADE AND ASSURE MORE RATIONAL USE OF UN SYSTEM, BUT ALSO BECAUSE
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ECOSOC WILL BE LESS LIKELY THAN SPECIAL GA COMIE TO
RADICALIZE PROGRAM.
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